

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Shell S. Simpson et al.

Serial No.: 10/001,721

Filed: October 30, 2001

Docket No.: 10007661-1

Title: WEB-BASED IMAGING SERVICE PROVIDING RESERVATION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of relieving competition between processing jobs sharing a production device, said method comprising:

accessing from a user's browser a destination service representing said production device;

retrieving imaging information of said user by said destination service;

selecting among production options provided by said destination service for determining a first processing job to process said imaging information using said production device;

estimating, based on said imaging information and said selected production options for said first processing job, a time duration a processing time required to process said first processing job using said production device with said selected production options;

providing said user an option of reserving a start time for deferred processing of said first processing job using said production device with said selected production options;

if said user opts to reserve the start time, setting a first deferred start time, storing said first processing job during a deferral period until said first deferred start time, and processing said first processing job using said production device with said selected production options at said first deferred start time; and

if processing of a second processing job is requested during a time period including any remaining portion of the deferral period conflicting with processing of said first processing job based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first processing job, providing an option of reserving a second deferred start time for deferred processing of the second processing job, the second deferred start time occurring after an estimated completion time for deferred avoiding conflict with the processing of said first processing job.

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2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first processing job is stored in a medium selected from the group consisting of a hard disk and an image store associated with said user's identity.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said setting said first deferred start time includes avoiding conflict with unavailable deferred start times of said production device.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising estimating resources required to process said first processing job using said production device with said selected production options.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising reserving quantities of said resources required to process said first processing job during said deferral period.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said reserved resources required to process said first processing job are monitored during said deferral period.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein during said deferral period a warning message is displayed whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity not greater than said reserved quantity of said reserved resource.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein during said deferral period said reserved resources are reported as if said reserved quantities of said reserved resources had already been consumed.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein during said deferral period said warning message is removed if said reserved resources are replenished above said reserved quantity.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising interrupting an existing processing job having a first arrived at priority, that is currently using a production

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device, such that another processing job can use said production device, said another processing job having a second arrived at priority different from said first arrived at priority.

11. (Currently Amended) A destination service representing a production device, said destination service operable to:

download content into a browser;

retrieve first imaging information;

select, under user interactive control via said content, from among production options for processing said first imaging information using said production device;

estimate, based on said first imaging information and said selected production options, a time duration a processing time required to process said first imaging information using said production device with said selected production options;

provide an option of reserving a first deferred start time for deferred processing of said first imaging information;

if the first deferred start time is reserved, implement deferred processing of said first imaging information using said production device with said selected production options at said first deferred start time; and

if processing of second imaging information using said production device is requested and processing of said second imaging information ~~cannot be completed prior to conflicts~~ with processing of said first imaging information based on the first deferred start time and the estimated processing time of the first imaging information, provide an option of reserving a second deferred start time for deferred processing of said second imaging information, the second deferred start time ~~occurring after an estimated completion time for deferred~~ avoiding conflict with the processing of said first imaging information.

12. (Previously Presented) The destination service of claim 11 further operable to estimate resources required to process said first imaging information with said selected production options.

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13. (Previously Presented) The destination service of claim 12 further operable to reserve until said deferred start time said required resources in quantities sufficient to process said first imaging information with said selected production options.

14. (Original) The destination service of claim 13 further operable to monitor until said deferred start time said required resources and to display a warning message whenever any of said reserved resources is depleted to a quantity not greater than said reserved quantity of said reserved resource.

15-20. (Canceled)